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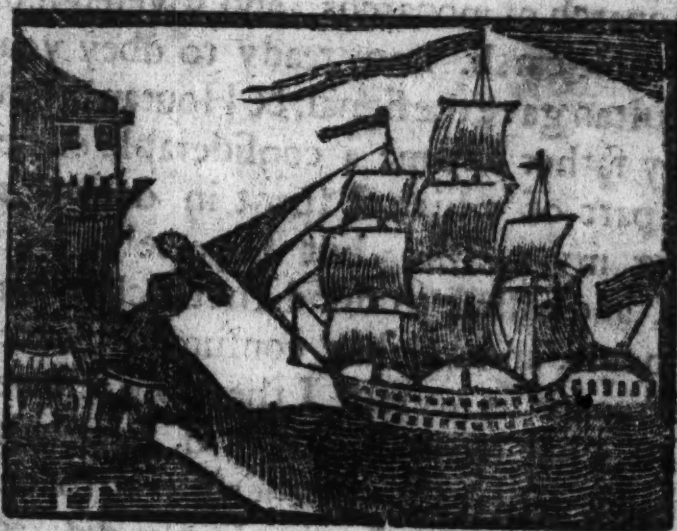
# ADVENTURES

O F

HOURLAN BANOW,

A TURKISH MERCHANT.

As related by himself before the  
GREAT MOGUL.



Newcastle: Printed in the present Year.

T H E  
A D V E N T U R E S

  
HOURANBANOW, &c.

**T**HE strange adventures of Houran Banow, a merchant-sailor, who formerly lived in the city of Bagdad, having, a few months ago, reached the ears of the mighty emperor of the Moguls, he was resolved on hearing the recital from himself; for which purpose he ordered one of his visiers to bring him into the divan; where being brought, and the Sultan ready to hear him, he began in the following manner.

Monarch of monarchs, and sovereign of the whole earth, I am ready to obey you. The sultan gave the signal, & Houran began:

My father left me a considerable estate, most part of which I spent in debauches during my youth: but I perceived my error, and called to mind that riches were perishable, and quickly consumed by such ill husbands as myself, I therefore resolved to sell what moveables I had, and with the money enter into partnership with some merchants; which I accordingly did, and embarked with them at Balsora, a port in the Persian gulph.

We made a long navigation, and touch'd at several ports, where we drove a considerable commerce. One day, being out in the main ocean, we were attacked by a horrible tempest, which made us lose our course. The tempest continued several days, and brought us before the port of an island, where the captain was very unwilling to enter, but was obliged to cast anchor there. When we had furled our sails, the captain told us that this, and other neighbouring islands were inhabited by hairy savages, who would soon attack us; and, tho' they were but dwarfs, yet our misfortune was such, that we must make no resistance, for they were more in number than locusts; if we killed, one of them, they would all fall upon and destroy us.

This discourse of the captain, says Houran, put the whole equipage into a great consternation, and we found very soon to our cost, that what he had told us was but too true. An innumerable multitude of frightful savages, covered all over with red hair, and about three feet high, came swimming towards us, and encompassed our ship in a little time. They spoke to us as they came near, but we under-

stood not their language; they climb'd up the sides of our ship with so much agility as surpris'd us. We beheld all this with a mortal fear, without saying one word to divert them from their mischievous design.

In short, they took down our sails, cut the cable, and hawling to the shore, made us all get out, and afterwards carried the ship into another island from whence they came. All travellers carefully avoided that island where they left us, it being very dangerous to stay there, for a reason you shall hear anon, but we were forced to bear our afflictions with patience.

We went forward into the island, where we found some fruits and herbs to prolong our lives as long as we could; but we expected nothing but death. As we went on, we perceived at a distance a great pile of building, and made towards it. We found it to be a palace well built, and very high, with a gate of ebony of two leaves, which we thrust open. We entered the court where we saw before us a vast apartment with a porch, having on one side a heap of men's bones, and on the other a vast number of roast spits. We trembled



at this spectacle, and being weary with travelling, our legs failed, we fell to the ground, with fear, and lay a long time immoveable.

The sun was set, and whilst we were in this lamentable condition just now mentioned, the gates of the apartment opened with a great noise, and then came out the horrible figure of a black man, upward of seven feet high, his teeth long and sharp, his mouth large, his eyes red, and his nails like the talons of an eagle. At the sight of so frightful a monster we lost all sense, and lay like men dead.

At last we came to ourselves, and saw him sitting in the porch looking at us; when he had considered us well, he advanced towards us, and laying his hand upon me, he took me up by the nape of my neck, and turned me round as a butcher would a sheep's head; after having viewed me well, and perceiving me to be lean that I had nothing but skin and bone, he let me go. He took up all the rest one by one, view'd them in the same manner, and the captain being the fattest, he held him with one hand, as I would do a sparrow, and thrusting a spit through him, kindled a fire, roasted, and eat him in

this apartment, for his supper; which being done, he returned to his porch, where he lay and fell asleep, snoring like thunder. He slept thus till the morning; for our parts, it was not possible for us to enjoy any rest, so that we passed the night in the most cruel fear, Day being come, the monster awaked, got up, went out, and left us in the palace.

When we thought him at a distance then we broke the melancholy silence we had kept, all night, and every one grieving more than another, we made the palace to resound with our complaints and groans. Though there was a great many of us, and that we had but one enemy, we had not at first the presence of mind to think of delivering ourselves from him by his death; the enterprize however, tho' hard to put in execution, was the only design we ought naturally to have formed.

We thought upon several other things, but determined nothing; so that, submitting to what it should please God to order concerning us, we spent the day in running about the island, for fruit and herbs to sustain our lives. When evening came, we sought for a place to lie in, but

found none; so that we were forced to return to preserve us from the wild beasts.

The tyrant failed not to come back, and supped once more upon one of our companions, after which he slept and inoared till day, and then went out and left us as formerly. Our condition was so very terrible, that several of my comrades, designed to throw themselves into the sea rather than die so strange a death; and argued with the rest to follow their example. Upon which one of the company answered, that we were forbid to destroy ourselves, but allowing it to be lawful, it was more reasonable to think of a way to rid ourselves of the barbarous tyrant, who designed so cruel a death for us.

Having thought of a project for that end, I communicated the same to my comrades who approved it. Brethren, said I, you know there's a great deal of timber floating upon the coast, if you'll be advised by me, let us make several floats of it that may carry us, and when they are done, leave them. In the mean time we shall execute the design to deliver ourselves from the inhuman canibal, and

if it succeed, we may stay here with patience till some ship pass by, that may carry us out of this fatal island; but if it happen to miscarry, we will speedily get out our floats, and put out to sea. I confess, that by exposing ourselves to the fury of the waves, we run a risk of losing our lives; but it was better to be buried in the sea, than in the entrails of this monster, who has already devoured two of us. My advice was relished, and we made floats for carrying three persons each.

We returned to the palace in the evening, and the gigantic savage soon after came. We were forced to conclude on seeing another of our comrades roasted, but at last revenged ourselves on the brutish monster thus: After he had made an end of his cursed supper, he lay down on his back, and fell asleep. As soon as we heard him snore according to custom, nine of the boldest amongst us, and myself, took each of us a spit, and putting the points of them into the fire till they were burning hot, we thrust them into his eyes all at once, and blinded him. The pain occasioned him to make a frightful cry, and to get up and stretch out his hands,

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in order to sacrifice some of us to his rage; but we ran to such places as he could not find us, and after having sought for us in vain, he groaped for the gate, and went out howling dreadfully.

We went out of the palace after the cannibal, continues Houran, and came to the shore, where we had left our floats, and put them immediately into the sea. We waited till day, in order to get upon them, in case our cruel destroyer came towards us with any guide of his own species. but we hoped if he did not appear by sun-rising, and give over his howling, which we still heard, that he would die; and if that happened to be the case, we resolved to stay in that island; but day had scarce appeared till we perceived our cruel enemy, accompanied with two others almost of the same size leading him, and a great number more coming before him with a very quick pace.

When we saw this, we made no delay but got immediately upon our floats, and rowed off from the shore. The wretches, who perceived this, took up great stones, and, running to the shore, entered the water up to the middle, and threw so ex-

actly, that they sunk all the floats but that I was upon, and all my comrades, except the two with me, were drowned. We rowed with all our might, and got out of the reach of the barbarous cannibals. But when we got out to sea, we were exposed to the mercy of the waves and winds, and tossed about, sometimes on one side, and sometimes on another, and spent that night and the following day under a cruel uncertainty as to our fate; but the next morning we had the good luck to be thrown upon an island, where we joyfully landed. We found excellent fruit that gave us great relief, so that we pretty well recovered our strength.

We dwelt there in a cave for some days, and lived upon the fruits we gathered. One day, my two comrades, who were excellent fishers, resolved, while I gathered some fruit, to make towards the shore, and procure some fish. This I readily agreed to: so coming a little way from our cave, I discovered a beautiful grove of trees, among which was one particularly tall, and loaded with the choicest fruits: I resolved on climbing to the top to procure the best, while my two com-

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panions made off to the sea, to bereave the briny element of some of its most delicious inhabitants. But oh, shocking to behold! scarce had I made half way up the tree, when I beheld, with unspeakable anguish, my two comrades, in the twinkling of an eye, devoured by a monstrous crocodile, without having a moment's time to escape. This horrible spectacle put me in the utmost terror; and I thought it more eligible to commit myself to the mercy of the waves, than be devoured by those monstrous animals. But,

God, says he, took compassion on my desperate state, for just as I was going to throw myself into the sea, I perceived a ship at a considerable distance, I called as loud as I could, and taking the linen from my turban, displayed it that they might observe me. This had the desired effect, and the sloop came to me. As I came aboard, the merchants and seaman flocked about me to know how I came into that desert island; and after telling them all that befel me, the oldest said, they never heard of any before who had escaped the jaws of these gigantic canibals, who inhabited that island; and as for the crocodiles, they

were more plenty in the island I was last in, than in any place of the world

After having testified their joy at my escaping so many dangers, they brought me in the best of what they had to eat; and the Captain, seeing I was in rags, was so generous as to give me one of his own suits. And, in all my dangers, having still preserved my money entire, I was enabled to join partner with some of the merchants on board. We were at sea for some time, touched at several islands, and at last landed at Salabat, where there grows Sanders, a wood of great ule in physick.

From the isle of Salabat we went to another, where I got cloves, cinnamon, and other spices. In short, after a long voyage I arrived at Bassora, and from thence returned to the city of Bagdad, with so much riches that I knew not what I had.

Thus finished Houran the history of his first voyage; and by the Sultan's order, went on with his second as follows:

## VOYAGE II.

**T**HE pleasures, said he, and the diversions I took after my first voyage, had not charms enough to divert me from another. I was again prevailed upon by my passion for traffic, and curiosity to see new



things: I therefore put my affairs in order, and having provided a stock of goods fit for the places where I designed to trade, I set out on my journey. I took the way of Persia, of which I travelled several Provinces, and then arrived at a port where I embarked. We set sail, and having touched at several ports of Terra Firma, and some of the eastern islands, we put out to sea, and were seized by such a sudden gust of wind, as obliged the Captain to furl his sails, and make all other necessary precautions to prevent the danger that threatened us. But all was in vain, our endeavours took no effect, the sails were tore in pieces, and the ship stranded; so that a great many of the merchants and seamen were drowned, and the cargo lost.

I had the good fortune, continues Houran, with several of the merchants and mariners, to get a plank, and we were carried by the current to an island which lay before us. There we found fruit and water, which preserved our lives. We staid all night near the place where the sea cast us on shore, without consulting what we should do, our misfortune had dispirited us to much.

Next morning, as soon as the sun was up, we walked from the shore, and advanced to the island, saw some houses, to which we went; as soon as we came hither, we were encompassed by a great number of

blacks, who seized us, shared us among them, and carried us to their respective habitations.

I and five of my comrades were carried to one place; they made us sit down immediately, and gave us a certain herb, which they made signs for us to eat. My comrades not taking notice that the blacks eat none of it themselves, consulted only the satisfaction of their own hunger, and fell of eating with greediness. But I suspecting some trick, would not so much as taste it, which happened well for me; for in a little time after, I perceived my companions had lost their senses, and that when they spoke to me they knew not what they said.

The blacks fed us afterwards with rice, prepared with oil of cocoas, and my comrades, who had lost their reason, eat of it greedily. I eat of it also, but very sparingly. The blacks gave us that herb at first on purpose to deprive us of our senses, that we might not be aware of the destiny prepared for us, and they gave us rice on purpose to fatten us; for, being cannibals, their design was to eat us as soon as we grew fat. They did accordingly eat my comrades, who were not sensible of their condition. But my senses being entire, your majesty may easily guess, that instead of growing fat, as the rest did, I grew leaner every day. The fear of death, under which I laboured, turned all my food into poison, I fell into a languishing distemper, which

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proved my safety; for the blacks having killed and eat all my companions, seeing me to be withered, lean, and sick, deferred my death till another time.

Mean while, I had a great deal of liberty, so that there was scarce any notice taken of what I did, and this gave me an opportunity one day to get at a distance from the houses, to make my escape. An old man, who saw me, and suspected my design, called to me as loud as he could to return; but instead of obeying him, I redoubled my pace, and quickly got out of his sight. At that time there were none but the old man about the houses, the rest being abroad, and not to come home till night, which was pretty usual with them. Therefore, being sure that they could not come home time enough to pursue me, I went on till night, then I stopt to rest a little, and eat some of the provisions that I had taken, but I speedily set forward again, and travelled seven days, avoiding those places which seemed to be inhabited, and lived for the most part upon the cocoa nuts, which served me both for meat and drink. On the eighth day I came near the sea, and saw, all of a sudden, white people like myself gathering of pepper, of which there was great plenty in that place; this I took to be a good omen, and went to them without any scruple.

The people who gathered pepper, continued Houraa, came to meet me, as soon as

they saw me, and asked me in Arabick who I was, and whence I came? I was overjoyed to hear them speak in my own language, and willingly satisfied their curiosity, by giving them an account of my shipwreck, and how I fell into the hands of the blacks. Those blacks, replied they, eat men, and by what miracle did you escape their cruelty; I told them the same story I now told you, at which they were wonderfully surprised.

I staid with them till they had gathered their quantity of pepper, and then sailed with them to the island from whence they came. They presented me to their King, who was a good prince: he had the patience to hear the relation of my adventure, which surprised him, and he afterwards gave me cloaths, and commanded care to be taken of me.

I observed one thing, which to me looked very extraordinary; all the people, the king himself not excepted, rode their horses without bridle or stirrups. This made me one day to take the liberty to ask the King how that came to pass? His majesty answered, that I talked to him of things which nobody knew the use of in his dominions.

I went immediately to a workman, and gave him a model for making a stock of a saddle. When that was done, I covered it myself with leather, and embroidered it with gold. I afterwards went to a locksmith, who made me a bit according to the pattern



I shewed him, and then he made me also some stirrups. When I had all things compleated, I presented them to the king, and put them upon one of his horses. His majesty mounted immediately, and was so mightily pleased with them that he testified his satisfaction by large presents to me. I could not avoid making several others for his ministers and the principal officers of his household, who all of them made me presents that enriched me in a little time: I also made for the people of the best quality in the city, which gained me great reputation and regard from every body.

As I made my court very exactly to the king, he saysto me one day, Houran I love thee; and all my subjects who know thee treat thee according to my example. I have one thing to demand of thee, which thou must grant. Sir, answered I, there is nothing but what I will do, as a mark of my obedience to your majesty, whose power over me is absolute. I have a mind thou shouldst marry, replies he, that so thou mayest stay in my dominions, and think no more of thy own country. I durst not resist the prince's will; and so he gave me one of the ladies of his court, a noble, beautiful, chaste, and rich lady.

The ceremonies of marriage being over, I went and dwelt with the lady, and for some time we lived together in perfect harmony. I was not, however, very well satisfied with

my condition, and therefore designed to make my escape on the first occasion, and to return to Bagdad, which my present settlement how advantageous soever could not make me forget.

While I was thinking on this, the wife of one of my neighbours, with whom I had contracted a very strict friendship fell sick and died. I went to see and comfort him in his affliction; and finding him swallowed up with sorrow, I said to him as soon as I saw him, God preserve you, and send you a long life. Alas! replies he, how do you think I should obtain that favour you wish me; I have not above an hour to live. Pray, says I, don't entertain such a melancholy thought, I hope it will not be so, but that I shall enjoy your company for many years. I wish you, says he, a long life; but for me, my days are at an end, for I must be buried this day with my wife. This was the way which our ancestors established in this island, and always observe it inviolable. The living husband is interred with the dead wife, and the living wife with the dead husband. Nothing can save me, every one must submit to this law.

While he was entertaining me with an account of this barbarous custom; his kindred friends, and neighbours came in a body to assist at the funerals. They put on the corps the woman's richest apparel, as if it had been her wedding day, and dressed her with all her jewels; then they put her into an open

coffin, and lifting it up began their march to the place of burial. The husband walked at the head of the company, & follow'd the corps. They went up to a high mountain and when they came thither, took up a great stone which covered the mouth of a very deep pit, and let down the corps with all its apparel and jewels. Then the husband embracing his kindred and friends suffered himself to be put into another open coffin without resistance, with a pot of water, and seven little loaves, and was let down in the same manner they let down his wife. The ceremony being over, they covered the hole again with the stone, and returned.

It is needless, for me to tell you, that I was the only melancholy spectator of this funeral, whereas the rest were scarcely moved at it, the thing was customary to them. I could not forbear speaking my thoughts on this matter to the king. Sir, say I, I cannot enough admire the strange custom in this country of burying the living with the dead. I have been a great traveller, and seen many countries, but never heard of so cruel a law. What do you mean, Houran, says the king, 'tis a common law? I shall be interred with the queen my wife, if she die first. But, Sir, will strangers be oblig'd to observe this law? Without doubt, replies the king, smiling at the occasion of my question, they are expected if they be married in this island.

I went home very melancholy at this answer, but there was no remedy, I must have patience

and submit to the will of God. I trembled however at every little indisposition of my wife. But alas! in time my fears came upon me all at once; for she fell sick, and died in a few days.

You may judge of my sorrow, continues Houran to be in error alive seemed to me as deplorable an end as to be devoured by canibals. But I must submit, the King and all this court honoured the funeral with their presence, and the most remarkable people of the city did the like. When all was ready for the ceremony, the corps was put into the coffin with all her jewels and magnificent apparel. The cavalcade was begun, and, as second actor in the dreadful tragedy, I went next the corps with my eyes full of tears bewailing my deplorable fate. Before I came to the mountain, I made an essay on the minds of the spectators; I addressed myself to the king in the first place, and then to all those who were round me; and bowing before them to the earth to kiss the border of their garments, I prayed them to have compassion upon me. Consider, said I, that I am a stranger, and ought not to be subject to this rigorous law, and that I have another wife and children in my own country. It was to no purpose for me to speak thus; no soul was moved at it; on the contrary, they made haste to let down my wife's corps into the pit, and to put me down the next moment into an open coffin, with a vessel full of water and sever



loaves. In short the fatal ceremony being performed they covered up the mouth of the pit, notwithstanding my grief and lamentable cries.

As I came near the bottom, I discovered by the help of the little light that came from above, the nature of this subterranean place; it was a vast long cave, and might be about 50 fathom deep. I immediately smelt an insufferable stench, proceeding from the multitude of dead corpse, which I saw on the right and left; nay, I fancied that I heard some of them sigh out their last. However, when I got down, I immediately left my coffin, and getting at a distance from the corps, held my nose, and lay down upon the ground, where I staid a long time bathed in tears; I made the cave to echo, beating my head and stomach out of rage and despair, and abandoning myself to the most afflicting thoughts. Nevertheless I must tell you, that instead of calling death to my assistance in that miserable condition, I felt still an inclination to live, and do all I could to prolong my days, I went groaping about with my nose stopt, for the bread and water that was in my coffin, and took some of it. Though the darkness of the cave was so great, that I could not distinguish day and night, yet I always found my coffin again, and the cave seemed to be more spacious, and fuller of corps than it appeared to me at first. I lived for some days upon my bread and water,

which being all spent, I prepared for death.

As I was thinking of death, continued Houran, I heard the stone lifted up from the mouth of the cave, and immediately the corps of a man was let down. While they let down the woman, I approached the place where her coffin was to be put, and as soon as I perceived they were covering again the mouth of the cave, I gave the unfortunate wretch two or three great blows over the head, with a large bone that I found, which stunned, or to say the truth, killed her. I committed this inhuman action, merely for the sake of her bread and water that was in her coffin, and thus I had provisions for some days more. When that was spent, they let down another dead woman, and a living man; I killed the man in the same manner; and, as good luck would have it for me, there was then a sort of mortality in the town, so that by this means I did not want for provisions.

One day, as I had dispatched another woman, I heard something walking, and blowing or panting as it walked. I advanced towards that side from whence I heard the noise, and upon my approach, the thing puffed and blew harder, as if it had been running away from me. I followed the noise, and the thing seemed to stop sometimes, but always fled and blew as I approached. I followed it so long, and so far till at last I perceived a light

resembling a star, I went on towards that light, and sometimes lost sight of it, but always found it again, and at last discovered that it came through a hole in the rock; large enough for a man to get out at.

Upon this, I stopped sometimes to rest myself, being much fatigued with pursuing this discovery so fast: Afterwards coming up to the hole, I went out at it, and found myself upon the bank of the sea. I leave you to guess at the excess of my joy, it was such that I could scarce persuade myself of its being real. But when I was recovered from my surprise, and convinced of the truth of the matter, I found the thing which I had followed, and heard it puff and blow to be a creature which came out of the sea and was accustomed to enter at that hole to feed upon the carcases.

I fell down upon the shore to thank God for his mercy, and afterwards entered the cave again to fetch bread and water, which I eat by day-light, with a better appetite than I had done since my interment in the dark hole. I returned thither a gain and grop'd about among the biers for all the diamonds, rubies, pearls, gold, bracelets, and rich studs I could find; these I brought to the shore, and tying them up neatly into bales, with the cords that let down the coffins. I laid them together upon the bank, waiting till some ship passed by.

After two or three days, I perceived a ship that had but just come out of the harbour, passing near the place where I was, I made a sign with the linen of my turban, and called to them as loud as I could: They heard me, and sent a boat to bring me on board. When the mariners asked me by what misfortune I came thither, I told them I was wrecked, and made shift to get ashore with the goods they saw. It was happy for me that those people did not consider the place where I was, nor enquire into the probability of what I told them; but, without any more ado, took me on board with my goods. When I came to the ship, the Captain was so well pleased to have saved me, and so much taken up with his own affairs that he also took the story of my pretended shipwreck upon trust, and generously refused some jewels which I offered him.

After touching at several islands, of which it is needless to trouble you with a detail, at last I arrived happily at your majesty's capital. Out of thankfulness to God for his mercies, I have great alms for the entertainment of several mosques, and for the subsistence of the poor, and employed myself wholly in enjoying my kindred and friends, and making good cheer with them.

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